ocean-going steamers against 102 in 1104. Shipping operations have been reported to be satisfactory during the first five months of the current year too.

Cochin Harbour.

9. You are aware that the Travancore Government are one of the three partners in the scheme for the development of the Cochin Harbour, the other two being the Madras Government and the Cochin Government. The work on the improvement of the Harbour has so far progressed that it has now become the regular practice for ocean-going steamers to enter the bar and discharge at moorings inside the backwater. According to the agreement between the three Governments, from the 1st April following the date on which such regular practice has been established, the three partners share equally the net customs revenue collections at the port of Cochin and the other ports in Cochin territory along with the net customs collections from the imports into the Travancore ports down to Quilon in the south. Correspondence is in progress regarding such division as from the 1st April 1930.

Banking Enquiry Committee.

10. The Banking Enquiry Committee, to whose appointment I referred in my address last year, has completed its work and presented its report. Its recommendations cover the entire field of credit facilities and banking organisations, and mainly relate to the need for the organisation of a bureau of statistics, the necessity of a well-considered programme for rural reconstruction, better facilities for marketing, ways and means for industrial development, fragmentation of holdings, starting of land mortgage banks, amendments to the Chitties Regulation, more efficient control of banks, etc. The suggestions embodied in the report are receiving the consideration of Government.

Agriculture.

11. The work of the Agricultural Department during the year and its results are fully set forth in the departmental report for 1105 furnished to you. The chemical and biological investigations are leading to results of practical value; cultural and manurial experiments on the more important crops yielded satisfactory results; and the study of fungus diseases and insect pests has led to the adoption of remedial measures to combat and control these visitations. With the growing paucity of land at the disposal of Government for assignment and cultivation and the increasing pressure of competition in foreign markets from articles produced elsewhere, the vital importance to the country of the ryots adopting the improved methods and using the artificial manures introduced by the department cannot be exaggerated.